



MEDIA RELEASE

Release Date: Immediate

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25th Anniversary Festivities Planned

From Thursday, May 10 through Saturday, May 12, the California State Railroad Museum will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Every day, special activities will take place throughout the Museum and along the railroad tracks on the Old Sacramento Waterfront. As part of California State Parks' "May is State Parks" promotion, admission to the Railroad Museum will be free all three days.

Inside the Museum, the exhibit "Cathedrals of Labor: The Industrial Legacy of the Southern Pacific Railroad Sacramento Shops" will premier Thursday, May 10. Daily activities will include costumed characters, music and entertainment, equipment demonstrations, re-enactments, children's activities, and guest locomotives and cars. Steam train rides, handcar rides, and guided tours of the Historic Southern Pacific Sacramento Shops will be available for a nominal fee.

Each day of the event is themed, and Thursday is Transcontinental Railroad Day. Specific activities this day include a re-enactment of the Groundbreaking for the Transcontinental Railroad's western half, at Front and "K" Streets, plus a re-enactment of the joyous celebrations that greeted news of the railroad's completion on May 10, 1869. Special lectures on the subject are also planned in the afternoon and evening.

Friday's theme is "20th Century Railroading Day," and the day's itinerary includes lectures on the subject plus a number of photo opportunities with 20th century railroad equipment. Activities and lectures on Saturday, "The Future of Railroading Day," will focus on contemporary railroading and the roles passenger and freight trains are expected to play in coming years.

The finale event of the Museum's 25th anniversary takes place Saturday evening, May 12. This evening, a public "25th Anniversary Party" will take place inside the Museum of Railroad History. Food and drink, live music, dancing, and an informal Museum retrospective program will be featured. Tickets are \$35 adults, \$25 youths (ages 16 and under). To order Gala tickets, call (916) 445-5995. For updated information regarding all the activities mentioned in this release, call our 24-hour info line at (916) 445-6645 or visit www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org

Operated by California State Parks with assistance from the CSRM Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Widely regarded as North America's finest and most-visited interpretive railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-square foot Museum of Railroad History plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big four and Dingley Spice Mill buildings in Old Sacramento. For 24-hour information, call (916) 445-6645 or visit www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org.

Background Information
California State Railroad Museum Celebrates 25 Years

Widely regarded as North America's finest and most-visited railroad museum, the California State Railroad Museum is actually a complex of historic structures and attractions. Located in Old Sacramento, the first Museum facility – the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station – opened in 1976. At the time, Old Sacramento was just beginning to blossom into a prime example of historic preservation.

Just five years later, the Museum's flagship exhibit facility, the 100,000 square foot Museum of Railroad History, opened in Old Sacramento. Since that time, the Museum has consistently ranked as one of Sacramento's top three attractions. With over 500,000 guests annually, the Museum has gained international fame through innovative exhibits, community outreach, and its highly acclaimed "Railfairs," held in 1981, 1991, and 1999.

As the Museum celebrates its 25th anniversary, it also looks ahead toward its future. Negotiations are currently under way with Union Pacific Railroad to place the Museum's next phase in the historic Southern Pacific Sacramento Shops complex. Located adjacent to downtown Sacramento, the Shops are one of North America's most important industrial sites. Proposed for the site is the Railroad Technology Museum (RTM), next phase of the California State Railroad Museum.

The RTM would convert the 44-acre historic Southern Pacific Sacramento Shops site into a dynamic cultural attraction. The ambitious project would benefit the Railroad Museum, its commercial and residential neighbors, the Union Pacific Railroad, the City and County of Sacramento, and the historic preservation community. The Railroad Technology Museum also represents a unique opportunity to secure public stewardship of the oldest industrial complex west of the Mississippi River, once Sacramento's largest employer.

Realization of this project would create an urban museum complex contiguous with the Old Sacramento Historic District, itself internationally known. The spacious railroad shop buildings would accommodate CSRM's vast collection of historic locomotives and railroad cars, along with formal museum exhibit galleries interpreting railroad engineering and technology. By allowing visitors the opportunity to view renovation of rail equipment, a "living industrial museum" would be created. If all goes well, this new museum facility could be ready to open within five to seven years.

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